

# REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 3rd September 1904.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Gharbandhu* [Ranchi] of the 15th August praises Sir Charles Eliot, Governor of British East Africa, for giving up his office, as the Home Government did not allow the Jews expelled from Russia to settle there.

GHARBANDHU,  
Aug. 15th, 1904.

Sir Charles Eliot, Governor of British East Africa.

2. An Indian correspondent writes to the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 27th August from Australia complaining of the treatment which all Indians receive from the authorities in that country. The Indian must pass many difficult tests before he can set foot on Australian soil. The writer solicits generous and sympathetic treatment from the British Government and pitifully mourns the disabilities which the Indians labour under, while other coloured races come to Australia and live comfortably. Are not the Indians subjects of the British Raj? Will not the British Government remove their grievances?

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

The disabilities of the Indians in Australia.

3. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th August has the following:—  
Mr. Brodrick, the Secretary of State for India, observes: "Tibet Mission was sent only to protect India from foreign invasions, and therefore India will have to bear its cost." Indeed! the Englishmen have not the least interest in taking Tibet. They have only discharged an unselfish duty for the sake of Indians.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

The cost of the Tibet expedition.

4. The same paper has the following:—

Afghan politics.  
One Mirza Durvish, an officer of the Amir of Kabul, has escaped to the Russian territories with three lakhs of rupees realized by him as revenue of a taluq, together with his family. The officers of the Russian Frontier arrested him and sent him to the Amir, who thanked the Russians and entertained the fugitive to a feast, after which he put out his eyes and threw him into prison.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

5. The same paper has the following:—

Afghan politics.  
The *Pioneer* gives very stirring news as regards the Amir of Kabul. Khawas Khan, a Jakka Khel Afridi, notwithstanding his hostility to the English, is a dependant of Habibullah Khan and is much regarded by him. He proposed to the Amir to enlist Afridi soldiers, but his proposal was not accepted. On Khawas Khan's son being murdered by a servant of his, a few weeks ago, the Amir expressed much regret and gave Khawas Khan Rs. 50,000 for the obsequies of his son. Khawas Khan, on the other hand, has made known that his son has been murdered at the instigation of the English and one who would avenge his death will be rewarded. He has fixed prizes on the heads of the Political and Military officers of the Khyber Pass and has in this way stirred up the Afridis. So the Afridis will now kill the Europeans not only for the sake of heaven, but to gain money as well. This is terrible news, as if the Amir has given him money to commit acts of enmity against the English. The Amir is said to be a friend of the English: but what sort of a friendship is this?

BHARAT MITRA.

6. Writing on affairs in Tibet, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th August observes:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 28th, 1904.

The situation in Tibet.

If at the present stage of affairs the English use force, the situation will be rendered more difficult. The Lamas, who have hitherto displayed friendly sentiments towards the English, will be turned into bitter enemies. The effect will be that the Mission will find itself placed in serious danger. Under such circumstances it ought not to lose its patience and resort to arms. It is our impression, that the Mission has only to thank itself that it has not been able to inspire full trust in the minds of the Dalai Lama and of the people of Tibet generally. This is why the conclusion of peace is being delayed. It is the duty of the Mission by whatever means to earn the respect and good-will of the Tibetans. It is by this means alone that it can gain its object quickly. But Colonel Younghusband is so very arrogant and imbued with the pride of Empire that we very much doubt if he would be able to patiently work towards this end. It is to be feared that the Mission will soon set itself to attack the town of Lhasa. Internal disturbances will be caused in that city, and hundreds of citizens will lose their homes and their



property. And human blood will be copiously shed in a town regarded as pre-eminently sacred by a pre-eminently inoffensive race—the Buddhists, whose motto is that the highest virtue is not to kill others.

HITAVARTA,  
Aug. 28th, 1904.

7. The article in the *Englishman* on Nepal has made the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 28th August suspicious. It warns the Government against any action in the matter,

for Nepal is the only Hindu State which is yet independent and therefore enjoys the sympathy of the Hindus. To molest Nepal will be to sow the seed of rebellion in Hindustan.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 29th, 1904.

8. Referring to the proposed Persian Mission, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th August says:—

The *Pioneer* says the Mission will be a purely commercial one. So the character of the Tibet Mission and the proposed Persian Mission should not be taken to be one and the same.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

9. Commenting upon the recent strained relations between Russia and England, the same paper observes "We feared a rupture between the two Powers," and then, giving

a brief account of the recent events, concludes with the following remarks:—

We see, on one side, the highly-spirited English subjects in an angry mood; on the other, the displeasure of insolent Russia; on one side, the forest fire burning brilliantly on, on the other, dry wood soaked in oil. Matters have assumed a fearful look. Sparks are flying all round, and it needs only once to come in contact with the dry wood to convert it into a funeral scene.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

10. The same paper gives the following account of the present state of

The cause of the Russian disaster.

Russia to which it ascribes her defeats at the hands of Japan:—Nabobdom is the order of the day in Russia. The Russian subjects have been given the semblance of independence. The Russian painters cannot draw correct pictures of the events of the Russo-Japanese war. The pictures are distorted so that the Japanese are shown to be defeated by the Russians in every engagement. Russia interferes in religious matters too. People giving up Christianity are transported to Siberia. The newspapers are not allowed the least independence. They are arrested if found writing on political matters and imprisoned for life. Public assemblies and clubs are not given any privileges. Courts cannot dispense justice freely. A man discharged by a judicial tribunal is hanged by the Czar's orders. Labourers are severely punished for striking work. The country is governed by martial law. For small offences even men are made over to martial courts and are shot by their orders. Agriculturists are flogged. Students suspected of disloyalty are at once impressed into the military service without any regard being paid to their state of health. It is therefore said that the sighs of the poor and the weak are the cause of the Russian defeats.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a)—Police.

SUHRID,  
Aug. 16th, 1904.

11. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 16th August observes that thefts and other forms of crime are very rampant in the district of Noakhali. Proper care is not taken to

watch the movements of the criminals after their release from jail. Offenders who escape conviction for want of sufficient evidence also require looking after by the Police to keep them from joining the ranks of the hardened criminals. It is to be hoped that the attention of the District Magistrate will be drawn to these points.

SANSODHINI,  
Aug. 19th, 1904.

12. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 19th August observes that

Police inefficiency in Chittagong.

murders are by no means rare in Chittagong, yet it is seen that in most of the cases the police fail to trace the real culprits. In the Hathazari case the District Superintendent made the inquiry in person, but nothing has yet come of it. Another case of suspected murder took place in *Baisakh* last at Fatikchhari. A young lad named Korban died suddenly. As Korban's family were on bad terms with a neighbour named Ashraf Ali, foul play was suspected. But the



police reported that it was a case of accidental death and sent up a C Form on it. The brother of the dead boy, however, was not content with this result and petitioned the District Magistrate for a fresh inquiry. This has been granted, and so there is a hope of obtaining justice in this case. But the question still remains: What business had the police to use the C Form and thereby stop all inquiry in a case which has been thought fit for inquiry by the District Magistrate? And why did not the District Superintendent conduct a personal inquiry on the spot? That would have brought out the truth at once. The event took place some four months ago. Suppose, owing to this long delay, the magisterial inquiry proves abortive, and the case has consequently to be dismissed, who should be held responsible? It is sufficiently bad that inquiries in murder cases usually lead to nothing. It would be worse if even these inquiries be shirked in the way it has been done in this case. Of course, it is not to be expected that every complaint that is made should lead to the punishment of the guilty parties. But all the same every complaint, by whatever person be it made, demands an inquiry, and should get a hearing from the responsible officials.

13. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 23rd August observes that in the course of the last few years there has been a great increase in the number of thefts, dacoities and other forms of outrage in thanas Kalihati and Gopalpur in the Mymensingh district. But happily the authorities are awake and are taking steps to check this evil. Recently two cases of murder occurred in the jurisdiction of thana Kalihati, and a case of big theft near Balla Ratanganj.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 23rd, 1904.

These outrages may all be easily suppressed if the co-operation of the zamindars could be enlisted by the police. The *lathials* in these parts are often responsible for terrible crimes. They infest and make dangerous even the highroad to Tangail, and sometimes extend the scene of their operations to the *hâts* (fairs) and bazars. A little inquiry will be quite sufficient to reveal who are at the bottom of these outrages.

14. A correspondent of the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 24th August calls attention to the irregular acts of the Sub-Inspector of Police of Nawabganj (district 24-Parganas). Many complaints were recently made against him, and the District Superintendent of Police came down to Barrackpur to hold a local inquiry. The result of this inquiry has not yet been made public.

JASOHAR,  
Aug. 24th, 1904.

A complaint is also made against another police officer of the same district. The offender is the Sub-Inspector of Police of the Barrackpur thana, and the case against him is as follows:—

On the 12th August last, he arrested a contractor's wife and a man on a certain charge. The male accused denied his guilt before Mr. Payne, the Subdivisional Magistrate of Barrackpur, but was in spite of this thrown into prison by the Sub-Inspector. The female accused was also kept confined in the thana. It does not appear on what authority the Sub-Inspector kept these two persons under restraint. The husband of the female accused engaged a mukhtar to apply to the Magistrate for his wife's release. But as the proper time to file an application was then over, the mukhtar dared not go before the Magistrate with his application. After a good deal of trouble the woman at last obtained her release at 12 o'clock at night.

This Sub-Inspector's pay is only Rs. 50 per month, but his style of living is quite equal to that of a prince. The higher officers of the police should not permit these irregularities to continue.

15. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 24th August observes that cases are now being frequently instituted in Court against the local police. Of these cases, some are being compromised, others dismissed, and others regularly tried. But as yet they have produced no improvement in the *morale* of the force. The serious charges which are made demand a careful inquiry before the Court pronounces its judgment. The police are demoralised enough already. If, in addition, they expect to be easily let off in all cases, the risk of their oppressing the public is materially increased. If it appears that the cases brought against the police are false and malicious, the persons responsible for bringing those cases should be prosecuted. The latest case of police

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Aug. 24th, 1904.



oppression comes from thana Daulatabad. The accused are the Daroga, a constable of Daulatabad thana and some chaukidars, and they are charged with offences under sections 349, 347, and 384 of the Indian Penal Code.

RANGPUR DIK-  
PRAKAS,  
Aug. 25th, 1904.

16. The *Rangpur Dikprakas* [Rangpur] of the 25th August calls attention to the increasing frequency of cases of outrages on women in the district of Rangpur. If all the cases had been made public, Government would surely have taken some measures to check this growing evil. But in the majority of instances, these cases never reach the public eye. Various reasons operate to enforce silence in this description of cases—(1) the fear of public exposure, (2) inability to incur the expense and trouble of going to law, (3) the dishonesty of the police, who hush up some cases altogether and report others to be false. So between all these causes, the offenders are being indirectly encouraged to deeds of further mischief.

In a recent case a woman was carried off in broad daylight from the custody of her father at Aditmari railway station. It is understood that this woman is still in the clutches of the ruffians who carried her off, and has not yet obtained her release. His father is so poor that he had to content himself with merely reporting the matter to the police. The police rid themselves of their responsibility in the matter by making a perfunctory inquiry ten or fifteen days after the occurrence took place. In truth in these days without money no man can hope for support and help. Consequently the poor have to put up silently with many acts of oppression.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

17. The *Howrah Hitaiishi* [Howrah] of the 27th August publishes some complaints against the Police Sub-Inspector of Sankrail. Before taking up an inquiry into a case, he usually opens negotiations for hush-money, and has a man named Hari Pada Sen of village Ram

Chandrapur to act as his intermediary on these occasions. His conduct in a recent case will illustrate this point. A few weeks ago a young lad of about twelve years named Fakir Chandra Das died of suffocation in the house of his brother-in-law, Gagan Chandra Das, in village Matal. As usual, the Daroga offered to stifle the whole enquiry on the spot if he was paid a certain sum. But, fortunately, the owner of the house in which the death had occurred preferred to prove his innocence in open Court, and so for the nonce the Daroga did not succeed in his unlawful attempt at extortion.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

18. The same paper says Puran Chandra Shukul, head-constable of Belgachhia police-station, was prosecuted with three other constables before the Deputy Magistrate of Alipore on the charge of asking presents of baskets of mangoes from the drivers of carts, and on their refusing to give them, of committing them to the police lock-up. Their case was decided last Tuesday. Shukul Maharaj has been sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment and a constable has been fined Rs. 20, the remaining two being discharged. Although the *garrywallas* were ready to present a few mangoes, yet Shukulji, being a high-caste Brahman, wanted a basketful of them. He has been made to taste it now.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

19. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th August has the following:—  
The Punjab Government is fully supporting the police. The Amritsar Urdu papers raised a cry against Safdar Jang, Police Inspector, and brought serious charges against him for his oppressions in Amritsar. The Government permitted the Inspector to bring suits against the papers. The Deputy Magistrate as well as the Chief Court held that the papers were right. In these circumstances, it was proper that a criminal action should have been brought against the Inspector and an enquiry made through a Commission, or, at least, some departmental punishment should have been inflicted on him. Instead of this the Government only transferred him to Rawalpindi, which means that if the people of Amritsar are no longer able to bear that Inspector's severe rule, let him try it on the people of Rawalpindi.

HINDI BANGAVANI,  
Aug. 29th, 1904.

20. The *Hindi Bangavani* [Calcutta] of the 29th August does not see any reason why the Punjab Government should have only transferred Kotwal Safdar Jang from Amritsar to Rawalpindi when the charge of defamation brought by him against some native papers for writing against him fell through. If



the Kotwal is really guilty, the transfer alone cannot be an adequate punishment. Will not people say that the Punjab Government is blindly siding with the police?

21. Referring to the scandal which arose from the case in which the

An injustice.

local Assistant Magistrate discharged for want of evidence, the same paper says that the combination of the executive and the judicial functions in one and the same person is alone responsible for it. It is indispensably necessary, therefore, that these functions should be separated, or the control over the Subordinate Magistrates should be transferred from the District Magistrate to the Sessions Judge.

22. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 27th August says that a police constable, whose nose was cut off by a thief, has got

An extraordinary reward.

Rai Bahadur if he had his ears cut off by the same thief.

23. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 30th August publishes a letter complaining of the hardship and injustice of the new assessments of the chaukidari-tax in mauza Shyamharibar, pargana Shipur, in the Majnamutha khas mahal.

Over-assessment of the chaukidari-tax.

A new collecting panchayat has been appointed in the person of Babu Rama Nath Maiti, of village Nalgera, and he it is who is responsible for the new assessments. It is said that under the new system of assessment, only those may claim exemption whose land measures two bighas or less, or who live by begging. Again, in every other village the assessments were made in an open place, after a fair hearing of the parties assessed. In this respect also this village has been at a disadvantage.

The list given below shows the amount of taxable property, the amount of tax assessed, and the means of subsistence in each case of the inhabitants of mauzas Shyamharibar and Jagaribar, pargana Shipur, in the Majnamutha khas mahal. Most of the property shown in it is mortgaged to the money-lenders:—

| NAME.             | Means of subsistence.        | Area of land owned. | Amount of tax. |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Chandradas        | Beggar                       | 10 cottahs          | 3 pice.        |
| Prasaddas         | Do.                          | do.                 | 2 "            |
| Jaidas            | Do.                          | do.                 | 2 "            |
| Dayaram Bhuinya   | Day-labourer                 | 1 chittak           | 2 "            |
| Krishna Bhuinya   | Ditto                        | do.                 | 2 "            |
| Hari Bhuinya      | Ditto                        | do.                 | 2 "            |
| Lalmohan Jana     | Day-labourer and cultivator. | 3 bighas            | 1 anna.        |
| Prankrishna Maiti | Ditto                        | 1½ do.              | 2 pice.        |
| Dhruba Maiti      | Ditto                        | 1½ do.              | 1 anna.        |
| Shib Seet         | Day-labourer                 | 10 cottahs          | 3 pice.        |
| Ram Jana          | Ditto                        | 1½ bighas           | 3 "            |
| Jhatu Jana        | Ditto                        | 1½ do.              | 3 "            |
| Sundar Patra      | Ditto                        | 1 do.               | 2 "            |
| Indra Das         | Ditto                        | 2 do.               | 3 "            |
| Srimanta Das      | Ditto                        | 2 do.               | 3 "            |
| Hari Krishna Das  | Ditto                        | 1½ do.              | 2 "            |
| Guru Das          | Beggar and cultivator.       | 3 do.               | 1 anna.        |
| Ram Krishna Das   | Ditto                        | 3 do.               | 1 "            |
| Gour Das          | Ditto                        | 2 do.               | 3 pice.        |

In conclusion, an appeal is made to the local Subdivisional Officer for relief.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

24. In an article headed "The moral degradation of an English Judge,"

Mr. Foster, the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh.

Hazaribagh, in the case of Babu Raghunandan Prasad and others, as unworthy

the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 24th August characterises the conduct of Mr. Foster, the Deputy Commissioner of

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 29th, 1904.

ARYAVARTA,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

NIHAR,  
Aug. 30th, 1904.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA,  
BAZAR PATRIKA  
Aug. 24th, 1904.



of a British Judge. In spite of the express order of the High Court to grant bail to the accused, he confined them in *hajat* for over two months. So strong was his animus against the accused persons that he set at nought the law and the order of the High Court, forgot all considerations of humanity, and harassed the accused most cruelly. What Mr. Foster did on this occasion can never be done by any honest man, far less by a Judge. Such a man ought never to be allowed to discharge judicial functions in a British court of justice. One would rather approach a wild animal or a venomous snake than him. The moral weakness shown by Mr. Warde-Jones in surrendering his independence is a disgrace to the British court of justice. It is to be hoped His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor will take due notice of the matter.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 23rd, 1904.

25. Referring to the action of Mr. Foster, the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh, in the recent case between Mr. Christian, an English zamindar, and a native zamindar, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 23rd August remarks:—

The case of Mr. Foster, the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh.

In this case Mr. Foster has repeatedly set at defiance the orders of the High Court, and the language he has used in submitting an explanation of his conduct to that Court has surprised its Judges. We understand that the Lieutenant-Governor has sent for the papers of this case. If Subordinate Magistrates who openly violate the orders of the High Court are still allowed to retain office, one must say that a bad day has dawned for the helpless people of this country. We trust our kind-hearted Lieutenant-Governor will make a thorough inquiry in this case.

PRATINIDHI,  
Aug. 24th, 1904.

26. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 24th August complains of the conduct of Mr. Manmatha Krishna Deb, Assistant Magistrate of Tippera, towards the *amla* of his Court. He uses abusive language towards them on the

Charge of incivility against an Assistant Magistrate.

least provocation. A case recently occurred in which one of these *amla*, after being subjected to gross indignity at his hands, appealed to the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate transferred him to some other work, which would not bring him in contact with Mr. Deb. While engaged in making over charge of his duties, the *amla* was subjected to further indignities and persecution at Mr. Deb's hands.

RANGPUR  
VARTAVAHA,  
Aug. 26th, 1904.

27. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 26th August calls attention to a case where a man was punished for another's fault. It appears that on the 11th August last, the Magistrate of Rangpur deputed a Musalman peon named Rabi to see that the people who assembled

A case of failure of justice before the District Magistrate of Rangpur.

in the verandah of his Court-house made no noise. Some of these persons talked among themselves and the noise reached the Magistrate's ears, and the peon was told to bring the culprits up to receive punishment. The peon, however, on going back to the verandah, found that it was quite clear of all the people. For thus failing to catch the offenders, the Magistrate charged the peon with contempt of Court and sentenced him to a fine of five rupees, with the option of a week's imprisonment.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 26th, 1904.

28. Referring to the conviction of Elliot and Thomas in the Darjeeling bogus telegram case, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th August says:—

The Darjeeling bogus telegram case.

We believe it is only the small fish that have been captured in the affair, but the larger ones which dive in deep waters—the men who planned the whole fraud—have escaped unscathed. It is to be regretted that influential persons, in whose hands Elliot, Thomas and D'Cruz were mere tools, and whose fertile brain devised the ingenious plan, have not been found out and punished. We hope the authorities will order a fresh enquiry and try to bring the real offenders to book.

HITAVADI

29. The same paper says that Maulvi Bazlal Karim, Police Magistrate of Calcutta, is earning the golden opinions of the authorities on the score of his being a con-

Maulvi Bazlal Karim.

victing and therefore an efficient Magistrate. The charge of incompetency was brought against him by Mr. (now Sir James) Bourdillon. But he has since sufficiently atoned for that sin by purchasing or by selling copies of Mr. Buckland's book and has been promoted. He is now highly spoken of



for his convicting tendency. What can be a greater moral degradation for a Government officer than this ?

On the other hand, Mr. Bonnaud is doing his work ably, and yet the authorities are not satisfied with him and are awaiting the time when he will reach his 55th year. Most probably after the completion of his 55th year he will not be granted extension for five years in continuation, but must retire after enjoying an extension of only one year. What the authorities want is not that justice should be done, but that there must be convictions. Consequently the Maulvi wins the game.

30. The *Aryvarta* [Ranchi] of the 27th August is glad to hear that the editor of the *Bharat Mitra* has been appointed a juror of the Calcutta High Court. Other High Courts ought to follow this example.

The editor of a newspaper appointed a juror.

ARYVARTA,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

31. The same paper in commenting on the case in which Dr. Mahendra Nath Dutt, Assistant Surgeon of Narayanganj, was prosecuted by the District Magistrate for making a false report, has the following :—

ARYAVARTA.

Prosecution of an Assistant Surgeon.

The oppression of the Magistrates is increasing day by day. What an oppression even in obtaining an opinion !

32. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 28th August reports a case in which a remittance of Rs. 13-8 by the zamindars of Pipardih by means of a money-order on account of road and public works cesses was not duly

HITAVARTA,  
Aug. 28th, 1904.

Irregularity in the Shahabad Collectorate.

credited in the Collectorate. The result was that process under the certificate law was issued against the zamindars, who could not for some reason produce the receipt at the time and had therefore to pay the amount over again. The receipt has now been found and will be produced by the zamindars, and it is hoped the Collector will refund the money.

The paper asks who is to be responsible for all this trouble to the zamindars, and hopes the able Collector will make enquiries and punish the party at fault.

(c)—Jails.

33. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 27th August takes exception to one of the many sites which have been proposed for the new jail at Khulna town. This site is the site of the existing jail, extended on the east up to the

KHULNAVASI,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

The proposed site for the new Khulna Jail.

Magistrate's quarters, on the west to the hospital, and on the south to and encroaching on the residences of the vakils and mukhtars. The site would be admirable from the point of view of the prisoners, but certainly not from that of the townspeople, for a jail here would detract both from the health and the beauty of the town, and it would also lead to the abolition of the long-established ferry *ghat* at this point, which will put the villagers of Aichgachi, Belfuliya, etc., to great inconvenience.

(d)—Education.

34. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 24th August observes :—

The Agartala College.

It was announced that the Agartala College had been raised to the status of a first grade College, and that the Maharaja had sanctioned Rs. 25,000 a year to meet the cost of its upkeep. But this week the public learn from a reliable source that it has been settled that the Agartala College should be abolished altogether and that the Maharaja will support the College at Comilla. For this purpose the following grants have been sanctioned :—A piece of land and Rs. 10,000 for the College buildings, and an annual sum of Rs. 500 for recurring expenditure. We are very glad at this new decision. It is nothing less than a piece of impudence to spend a large sum of money on a College at Agartala. We understand that the Lieutenant-Governor, during his recent visit to the place, expressed his opinion against money being spent on the Agartala College, as he doubted its utility. The Divisional Commissioner also expressed himself in strong terms that the institution was merely a device to serve the purely personal object of advertising

PRATINIDHI,  
Aug. 24th, 1904.



the name of a particular individual. Mr. McMinn was all along against the establishment of this College, and before he left, did not hesitate to give public expression to his opinion, though in an indirect way. The University also refuses to affiliate the College. Under all these circumstances it is better not to keep up the institution. We do not mean to say that the Agartala College did no good in the past, or that it might not have done good in the future. We know that already many poor students have benefited by its existence—students who, but for it, would have been compelled to go without high education altogether. What we mean is, and what we have been saying all along is, that a well-ordered, firmly-established College at Comilla would be a hundred times more beneficial to the country than a similar institution situated at Agartala. And without the help of the Maharaja such a College cannot be established at Comilla. Ananda Babu has done his best, and the country will ever remain grateful to him for what he has done. Without help from the Maharaja, Ananda Babu cannot expect to complete the good work he has begun. A quarter of the expense which the Maharaja was prepared to incur in the case of the Agartala College would, if applied to the Comilla College, bear richer fruit. We have all along said that both the places, Agartala and Comilla, have a similar claim on the Maharaja's generosity, for both of them belong to him. We regret to see that some of the Calcutta papers are holding Government responsible for the fate which has overtaken the Agartala College.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 26th, 1904.

35. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 25th August writes as follows:—

Entrance schools and the new scheme of vernacular education.

For nearly a year we have been protesting against the mischief which is being done to the province by the Education Department. The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Basu also raised the question in the Bengal Council in March last. But we are surprised to see that, in order to maintain its *aïd*, Government will not see the harm it is doing to millions of Bengali boys. Nothing can be a matter of greater surprise than that even a conscientious ruler like Sir Andrew Fraser refuses to take notice of the situation. We request the three elected native members of the Bengal Council to visit some aided Entrance schools in the mufassal in order to see what inhuman cruelty is perpetrated on the boys of the classes from the fifth to the eighth in the matter of their education and then set on foot a strong agitation on the subject in that Council. Let the whole province agitate against the doings of the Education Department, whose indiscretions are ruining the future of a very large number of boys and marring the prospect of receiving a University education in the case of many others. We also feel inclined to ask the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children to take up the question and check the perpetration of such cruelty on millions of native boys.

In reply to the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath's question in the local Council, the Government of Bengal said that the Government of India having decided that it was inadvisable to teach a boy any subject through the medium of English before he had attained the age of thirteen, orders had been passed to teach arithmetic, history, and geography in the lower classes of Entrance schools in vernacular, and that with this object in view Entrance schools had been given the privilege of sending up boys to the Middle and Upper Primary Scholarship Examinations. We have not the least objection to the three subjects of arithmetic, history, and geography being taught through the medium of the vernacular in the lower classes of Entrance schools, nor did Bhupendra Babu raise any objection to the proposal. But what we, along with Bhupendra Babu, strongly object to is the decision of the Director of Public Instruction to increase the number of subjects to be taught in the lower classes of such schools and to increase their quantity. For instance, while, before the new scheme came into operation, boys of the fifth class of an Entrance school read arithmetic up to decimal fractions and a small history of Bengal and a small book on geography like Blochman's Geography, under the new scheme boys of 7th (B) class are required to read arithmetic up to decimal fractions, besides history, geography, practical geometry, and mensuration and a very store-house of science called by the name of the Science Reader; the boys of the fifth and sixth classes are required to read the whole arithmetic, geometry, Book I, or practical geometry and mensuration, the whole history of India, geography, and a Science Reader. We would have thanked



Government if, without interfering with the number and the quantity of the subjects taught in the lower classes of Entrance schools, it had simply directed those subjects to be taught through the medium of the vernacular. But it is impossible for us to remain silent when Government has thought fit to lay on the shoulders of tender boys such a heavy burden on the plea of teaching them through the medium of their vernacular.

The Education Department might urge in defence of its scheme, that the new subjects introduced in the lower classes of Entrance schools are subjects which every boy of an Upper Primary and a Middle School have to go through and pass his examinations in. That is true. But boys in the seventh class of an Entrance school are generally nine or ten, and boys in the fifth class eleven or twelve years of age, whilst the maximum age of boys entitled to get an Upper Primary Scholarship has been fixed at thirteen, and that of boys entitled to get a Middle Scholarship at sixteen. Studies which can suit boys from thirteen to sixteen must certainly prove too heavy a task for boys between nine and twelve. Sir Alfred Croft, who was a wise, learned and intelligent man, had tentatively introduced a similar scheme only in some of the Government Schools in the Presidency Division, in order to ascertain its success, before applying it to the whole province. He found it unsuited to Entrance schools and abolished it without demur. We have repeatedly said that the object of an Entrance school is quite different from that of the Upper Primary and Middle Schools. Most of the boys who read in the latter schools finish their education there, and then go out in the world to serve either as muharrirs under zamindars or as teachers in village *pathsalas*; very few of these boys carry on their studies further. These schools, therefore, teach their boys a little of everything, namely, history, geography, *Subhankari*, geometry, and science in order to make their education as complete as is possible under the circumstances. The principal object of Entrance schools, however, is to prepare boys for a University education. Those boys of Entrance schools who are not so fortunate as to enter the University, leave school from the second or the first class, and with the knowledge of English they have acquired succeed in securing appointments in Government offices, in merchants' offices, and on the ministerial establishments of mufassal courts. In fact, their passport to the world is their knowledge of English. But, if Mr. Pedler's scheme is carried out, boys of Entrance schools will be taught very little English up to the fifth class, and not only will their knowledge of the language be too poor to enable them to secure appointments in the clerical line, but will hardly be enough to enable them to pass the Entrance examination. The Universities Commission wanted to increase the standard of English in the Entrance examination, but it is evident that Government wants to reduce it. The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath referred to the matter in his interpellation, but no reply was forthcoming from the Government. We request Bhupendra Babu not to desist till he has got a satisfactory reply.

We request the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath, the Hon'ble Babu Nalin Bihari, and the Hon'ble Babu Ambika Charan to ascertain the following facts from some Entrance schools and agitate on the subject in the Bengal Council:—

(1) What subjects and how much of each subject were taught in the classes from the fifth downwards of Entrance schools, before Mr. Pedler's new scheme came into operation?

(2) What subjects and how much of each subject are now taught in these classes after the introduction of the new scheme?

(3) What is the average age of boys reading in those classes?

(4) Whether in view of the fact that geometry is taught from the fourth class, through the medium of English, it is not unnecessary to teach the subject through the medium of the vernacular from section B of the seventh class? Whether also the subject will not prove too difficult for the boys of the lower classes?

(5) What will be the use of making the boys of the fifth and sixth classes read Indian History in the vernacular, when they will read the same subject in the higher classes through the medium of English? Will it not be better to substitute a history of Bengal and a small geography, both in Bengali, for Indian History in those two classes? Is it not, moreover, quite unnecessary to teach history and geography in the A and B sections of the seventh class?



(6) Whether in view of the fact that the only knowledge of physical science required for the Entrance examination is what is to be derived from Huxley's Introductory Science Primer, which book is read in the first and second classes; and that no physical science is read in the third and fourth classes, it is not quite unnecessary to teach difficult Science Readers, involving the principles of many sciences, in the classes from the seventh (B) to the fifth? Whether, also, in view of the fact, that no scientific apparatus are kept in the Entrance schools, and that their science teachers are mostly men who have themselves no knowledge of science; it is not advisable to abolish science teaching in the lower classes?

(7) Whether, in comparison with the English text-books which used to be read in the classes from the fifth downwards before the introduction of the new scheme, the text-books appointed by Mr. Pedler are not quite worthless?

(8) Whether it will not be difficult to pass the Entrance examination, if English is learnt at the lower classes from such text-books?

(9) Whether the knowledge of arithmetic, required of boys of the classes from the fifth downwards, is not much too extensive?

In consequence of the Director's order, no English is taught under the new scheme in the eighth class of Government and aided schools. But, as it will be impossible for boys to pass the Entrance examination unless they commence to learn English in the eighth class, private schools have disregarded the Director's order, and boys are leaving the Government and aided schools to join private schools. To devise means to check this transfer of boys, the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division, held a conference with his Deputy Inspectors, at which it was decided to move the Director of Public Instruction for the issue of an order depriving the schools, which did not adopt his syllabus, of the privilege of sending up boys to scholarship examinations. So, let the authorities of private schools take care! Mr. Pedler is secretly inducing the Government to pass many injurious rules. Let a strong protest be made without delay.

We request the Indian Association to print the above queries and send copies of them to the Head Masters of all Entrance schools, and, when their replies are received, to set about undoing the evil that the new scheme is calculated to do.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 26th, 1904.

36. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th August severely condemns Mahamahopadhyaya Nilmani Mukharji's *Midel Bharnakular Ridar*, which has been appointed as a text-book for vernacular schools. The author uses learned words and expressions like "আমুখবিদ্যায় পদিশীলিত," "অবিস্ময়," "পুরোধা," "সায়ক," "কুটিয়," and "হুবারেই," side by side with such common and vulgar forms of expression as "হুটিলেন," "আন্তে আন্তে," "হারিলেন." A similar combination is his expression "শকট চড়া." He uses such grammatically incorrect forms such as "একুলিত," "ব্যাকুলিত," "বিদুলিত," "আকুলিত," "বিকুলিত," "বিরাকারাকার." Though a learned pandit, the author uses the word "এসন্ত" in its incorrect and vulgar sense of 'wide.'

In stealing a couplet from Krishna Chandra Majumdar's poetry, without acknowledgment, beginning "অগ্নি হুধময়ী উষে, &c.," the Mahamahopadhyaya has committed the mistake of spelling "হুধময়ী," as "হুধময়ি," forgetting that in Bengali the adjective, like the adjective in Sanskrit, does not always undergo inflexions like the noun it qualifies. For instance, "হুধরায় নারীম্," in Sanskrit is not rendered in Bengali into "হুধরীকে নারীকে." "কোদিত" is another instance of spelling mistake. What do the author's "মুনি," "ভড়িময়" "পালিনী," and "পাহি" mean? The Mahamahopadhyaya's poetry, too, is wretched, being faulty in regard to both its rhyme and rhythm and its sense. In pages 79, 80, 83, 85, 88, 89, 93, 94, 95, and 96 the pronouns "তাহাকে," "তাহারা" and "উঁহার" are needlessly used so often as to lead one to suppose that they are the printer's errors.

In the grammatical portion of the book, boys are taught that the word "ডজন" (dozen) prefixed to a Bengali word makes it plural.



That the Mahamahopadhyaya's *Manjari* could be dislodged from its position as a text-book in colleges, was because it had not been able to secure for itself a firm footing. But now the efforts of the authorities are directed towards bringing about a revolution in the vernaculars of the country, and the consequence is that boys are compelled to read such wretched books. To tell the truth, it is the so-called educated natives who are more to blame in this matter than the Government. Though they succeed in securing University degrees, their knowledge is limited, and they learn thoroughly neither Sanskrit, nor English, nor their own vernacular. These are the men who, either softened by flattery, or moved by bribes, or the expectation of a share in the profits, or by a desire to serve their *protégés*, are appointing these worthless productions as text-books.

37. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 28th August has received the following from a correspondent at Deoghur:—

HITAVARTA,  
Aug. 28th, 1904.

The Deoghur High School.

The Managing Committee of the local school consists of Bengalis only. Although the school is situated in Bihar, no Bihari teacher is ever appointed. When a vacancy occurs, it is not advertised in Bihar colleges, so the fact does not even reach the ears of the Biharis.

38. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 29th August writes as follows in the course of an article in English on scientific and industrial education in India:—

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Aug. 29th, 1904.

Scientific and industrial education in India.

Thousands of ships invade India annually with foreign commodities and thousands quit its ports laden with our national wealth, leaving us on the verge of starvation. Unless and until we can take united and vigorous action to repel such a foreign invasion upon our wealth, we will continue to rapidly deteriorate in physique, our death-rate will gradually increase, and the progress of our education will be retarded. The only means to check foreign imports into the country is to send out at least 50 persons annually for modern scientific and industrial education abroad, so that they may, on their return, teach others to make their own cloths, shoes, umbrellas, steel utensils and trunks, paper, nibs, etc., and the like, which are of extensive sale in the country. If Mr. Tata alone could spare 30 lakhs for better scientific education of his countrymen, if Mahomed Moshin could bequeath his entire property for the education of his co-religionists, if the Japan coolies could reduce their household expenditure for a struggle for national existence, it is not too much to ask at least of our educated and well-to-do people to contribute their mite, as well as to take a platform in each ward in the town and in each centre in the interior to enlighten the people on the importance of the subject and to enlist their sympathy and co-operation.

39. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 31st August says that although Mr. Pedler has succeeded to a great extent in reforming the abuses of the old Text-Book Committee, causes of complaint have arisen

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 31st, 1904.

Irregularities in the selection of text-books.

from the manner in which vernacular text-books are now selected. The Director himself is not well acquainted with the vernacular languages and is therefore obliged to depend upon others in selecting text-books. It is deeply to be regretted that those who are consulted by the Director on this subject fail to maintain their independence and impartiality intact. Entrusted as they are with the task of offering recommendations, they ought certainly to act in a manner calculated to maintain the dignity of their position. The inaccuracies in a certain text-book were lately pointed out in the *Hitavadi*. The wonder is that the effect of this was that this book, which had been a text-book for the preceding two years, was fixed as a compulsory text-book for another year. The Director will come to know in the course of January next what artful devices were made use of by the author in order to compass his selfish ends.

When Divisional Inspectors were entrusted with the selection of text-books, they used to do their duty carefully and cautiously, lest any complaint should be made to the Director. They had this advantage, that they had not to taste the soup through another's mouth, as the saying goes. As far as is known, Mr. Pedler often tries his best to act impartially. He is not aware perhaps how far those highly placed officials who have the reputation of being eminent men deserve to be so called. His assistant, Babu Kunjavihari Basu, may possibly know something in this connection! Certain authors have been enjoying



permanent rights as under the Decennial Settlement from the commencement of the twentieth century ! Whether such things should be allowed, whether there are mistakes in the favoured books, whether other authors should be encouraged, are matters that should be enquired into by the authorities.

If it is true that the motives of the Director are impartial and generous, then it must be a matter for serious consideration what are the opposing forces which prevent the same from getting free play. Whether the Education Department is after all any better than the Police Department should also be carefully considered. The Director's office is the highest in the Education Department. It ought to be as free from reproach in that Department as the High Court is in the Judicial Department. That standard was, it would appear, maintained up to the time of Ambika Babu. If only the higher officers in this office would act unselfishly, the generous wishes of Government would be fulfilled and public confidence and regard would be maintained. Kunja Babu is an intelligent, wise and learned man. If he acts with a little discretion then all will be right. Every man occupying a respectable position ought so to act as to be able to maintain his dignity.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

AL PUNCH,  
Aug. 13th, 1904.

40. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 13th August is glad to hear that the Patna city will be supplied with electric tramway. This will save the public from the oppressions of the hackney carriage drivers.

AL PUNCH.

41. The same paper complains of the filthy condition of and absence of lights in the lanes in the Patna City, and also of the streets and lanes remainin under deep water during the rains owing to defective drainage.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Aug. 20th, 1904.

42. A correspondent from Bhadreswar writes to the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th August that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor went there on Sunday before last by steamer to visit the Manicknagar Ghat Road. Unfortunately, none but the proprietors of the local mill and some of their friends had any knowledge of the intended visit and could not therefore be present there at the time. His Honour came to the place at about 9 A.M. At that hour very few persons come to bathe in the river. It is said that those present there informed His Honour that the ghat was not used for bathing purposes by the people. This is entirely false. His Honour will surely perceive from the petitions submitted to him that he has been misinformed.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

43. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 27th August regrets that the public of Bhadreswar had no previous intimation of the surprise visit of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to that place on the 14th August last. His Honour came to the Manicknagar Ghat at 9 in the morning, an hour before which most of the Hindus complete their bathing at the ghat. The ladies of respectable families of Telinipara, Baraset and Mankundu bathe there early in the morning. It is to be hoped that nothing untoward may happen to the Hindus as a result of His Honour's visit. Thousands of Hindus of Bhadreswar confidently expect that His Honour will never wound their religious susceptibilities by introducing an innovation, but allow them the free use of the Manicknagar Ghat, where they have been bathing from time immemorial.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 26th, 1904.

44. "Max" writes in *Capital*, says the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th August, that an enquiry will be instituted into the corruption prevailing in the Calcutta Municipal Office. That corruption is rife in the Municipal Office goes without saying. Instances are not uncommon of municipal employes on small pay amassing a large sum in a short time. It is well known that the payment of a few rupees is all that is required to enable a man to violate the provisions of the new Municipal Act. It is to be hoped Government will make a sifting enquiry in the matter.



45. The same paper writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 26th, 1904.

Appointments in the Calcutta Municipality.

The one aim of almost all classes of Englishmen in India seems to be to deprive the children of the soil of most of the higher appointments, whether directly under Government or elsewhere, and to bestow the same on their kith and kin. The recommendations of the Public Service Commission have been quite ignored, and everywhere there is witnessed excessive zeal in providing Europeans and Eurasians with their means of livelihood at the cost of the Indians.

One might expect that in the Calcutta Municipality, which is an institution managed by representative members elected by the rate-payers, there would be an absence of such egregious preference for Europeans and Eurasians. But what are the facts? One would be lost in amazement if one glanced at the list of European and native officers in the Municipality which was submitted by the Chairman to the Commissioners. It appears from that list that out of 7 officers receiving salaries varying from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,500 per month, only 1 is a native, and that one is no other than Babu Nilambar Mukerji, the Vice-Chairman. All the others are Europeans. It is our firm belief that when Babu Nilambar retires, a European will be appointed in his place.

There are 16 posts carrying salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 900, of which only 3 are held by Indians and the rest by Europeans. Of the 3 Indians, 1 is the Collector, who had to make a deposit of a huge sum of money to secure his appointment. Probably no European was prepared to deposit such a large sum, and hence a native was appointed to that post. The Chairman's list reveals the fact that in 1903 there were 68 appointments carrying salaries varying from Rs. 200 to Rs. 3,500, of which only 27 were held by Indians and the remaining 41 by Europeans. Both in the number of appointments held and in the amount of salary received by the Indians they are suffering the grossest injustice. The salaries of 23 native officers, out of a total of 27 as above stated, are below Rs. 500, while 6 of the 41 European officers get from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,500, 13 get Rs. 500 to Rs. 900, and the remaining 22 get Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 as salary. Is there any other country where such injustice and foul play are tolerated?

Ten years ago, that is to say, in 1893, there were only 10 appointments in the Calcutta Municipality carrying salaries of Rs. 500 and upwards. In 1903 the number rose from 10 to 23. In 1893 the number of officers receiving salaries over Rs. 200 was 54, and in 1903 this number rose to 68. Of the 14 new appointments, the salaries attached to 13 were more than Rs. 500. This means that the total monthly expenditure on account of salaries of officers who received upwards of Rs. 500 per month increased in ten years from a little over Rs. 11,000 in 1893 to Rs. 23,000, out of which Rs. 19,700 was received by Europeans. Can there be a more flagrant instance of partiality and wasteful expenditure than the above?

If some one among the Commissioners will call for an account of contract works of the Municipality from the Chairman, the public will then have an opportunity to know how large are the profits which European merchants are deriving from the Municipality. Repair of roads and arrangements for drinking-water in the native quarters of the town are being neglected for want of funds, but in providing appointments to Europeans the authorities are squandering large sums of money. How is it that the work which could be done at a monthly expenditure of Rs. 11,000 ten years ago now requires Rs. 23,000 for its performance? What is that noble object for the attainment of which the authorities have appointed so many Europeans on such large salaries? What are the improvements that have been effected in the various sections of the Municipality since their advent into office? Can any person give satisfactory answers to these questions? If the municipal authorities had the slightest sense of responsibility, if they were not swayed by considerations of the worst sort of nepotism, they could never have wasted the hard-earned money of the poor rate-payers in this fashion.

In conclusion, we implore His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to take notice of the doings of the Calcutta Municipality. We have had enough of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's new Municipal Act. Either let the old system



be reintroduced, or let the mockery of self-government be done away with. The finger bitten by a venomous serpent should be at once cut off. We should be happy to see an end of the present disgraceful municipal administration of Calcutta.

**BASUMATI,**  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

46. In the course of a long article on the extravagance of the Calcutta Municipality, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 27th August observes:—

The extravagance of the Calcutta Municipality.

The Municipality is always intent on making provision for the support of Europeans both directly and indirectly. Lest the engineers should prove unequal to misappropriating all the money of the poor rate-payers, a class of men called contractors have been called in to help them; and most of these contractors are Europeans. It is difficult to get an exact account of the amount which these men wheedle out of the Municipality year by year. But this much is certain, that there are many firms of contractors who are fattening themselves at the expense of the Municipality, like so many overfed leeches. Considering the preponderating influence exercised over the Municipality by the Chamber of Commerce, we are not at all surprised that so much money should be spent by it for the benefit of the commercial community alone, although that money is mostly contributed by the other communities. The prospect is disquieting to anyone who can see into the future. Such misuse of the money of the native citizens of the metropolis is probably unparalleled throughout the British dominions. In no other country in the civilised world has such an easy way been yet found of raising money and spending it.

**BANGAVASI,**  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

47. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 27th August publishes complaints of water-scarcity from the following places:—

Sujanagar, Chanchole, in Malda; Sonamukhi in Bankura; Hatikumrul in Pabna; Amrapara in the Sonthal Parganas; Betai, Meherpur, in Nadia; Sarbamangala, Kalna, in Burdwan; Bamanmura, Baraset, in 24-Parganas; Neogi's Bathuchia, Manikganj, in Dacca.

**BHARAT MITRA,**  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

48. The *Bharatmitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th August has the following:—

Detention of the dead body of Babu Makundi Lal Khatri at Nimtollah burning-ghat.

Babu Makundi Lal Khatri, a *raia* of this town, died on Saturday last. His body was detained by the Nimtollah Ghat people for an hour on the ground that he had died of a fall. When

such is the treatment meted out to a man of high position, what must be the trouble that these people might be giving to others?

**CHINSURA  
VARTAVAHA,**  
Aug. 28th, 1904

49. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 28th August complains of the mismanagement of the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality. The Commissioners for fear of being superseded like those of the Santipur and

Navadvip Municipalities, have yielded to Government pressure and raised the rate of taxation from  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Things have come to such a pass that the people pray to Government to be relieved of this boon of Local Self-Government and to be taken under the direct management of Government. It is not that the system itself is at fault. But everything depends on the men who are elected to serve as Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, and Commissioners. At present the men who serve in these capacities are prompted more by a desire to advertise themselves than to serve the public interests. It is the very acceptance of Municipal office, with its attendant power and influence, that demoralises them.

As regards the details of the charges of mismanagement, (1) the drains and privies are not properly cleaned, and emit an offensive smell; (2) the lanes and even the main streets are full of holes and the least shower of rain makes them impassable; (3) the arrangements for lighting the streets are defective. In some cases the lamps are lighted at a late hour (say 8 p.m.), and in others those which are lighted expire after shedding a flickering ray for an hour or two.

All these things are permitted to happen for the want of adequate supervision by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman. The former is a pleader possessing extensive practice and always busy with his professional duties. The latter is a young man with no experience of municipal work, and with no interest in it either. The effect is that the municipal executive carry everything their own way.



50. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 28th August publishes a letter from some correspondents pointing out that the grants made by the Local Board of Dacca for road repairs are largely misappropriated by the contractors

A complaint against the Local Board of Dacca.

charged with the work in each case. An illustration is given as follows:—This year a sum of Rs. 20 was allowed for repairs to the road at Govindagram village, in thana Nawabganj. Absolutely no repairs were made. Yet the overseer reported that the road had been repaired, and the contractor was paid his money. Since then the villagers have reported the matter to the Board, who sent down their Engineer to make a local inquiry. But nothing further has yet been done.

DACCA PRAKAS,  
Aug. 28th, 1904.

51. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th August calls attention to the inconvenience caused to the public of Kalighat by the location of the municipal trenching-ground in the very heart of that quarter of the city. The

The trenching-ground at Kalighat.

Kalighat road, newly constructed, is, of course, a great improvement. But so many *mehters*, carrying buckets of night-soil on their shoulders, pass over it in the morning every day that ordinary wayfarers are compelled to shun it during those hours. In fact, the European residents of Ballyganj and Alipore have dubbed it the '*mehters*' road'. In addition, carts are sometimes left waiting on the road-side, with the dead-bodies of cows, horses and other animals. This is due to the neglect of the municipal officers concerned. The bad smell that arises from these causes is a standing menace to the health of the locality.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 29th, 1904.

52. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 31st August complains that the Nimta roads in ward No. 2 of the North Dum-Dum Municipality are in a miserable condition. The Chaudhuripara road sadly needs repairs. The drains on both sides of the

The condition of the roads in the North Dum-Dum Municipality.

roads are filled with stagnant water, as there are no arrangements for the water to run out. No lights are provided on the roads. The municipal assessment is gradually increasing, but the Chairman and the Commissioners are indifferent to public inconvenience. Tenders were invited three months ago for the repair of the roads, but the Chairman is unwilling to fix a date for the acceptance of any tender.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 31st, 1904.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

53. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 28th August observes:—

The rumoured cadastral survey of East Bengal.

It was an evil moment for the country when the cadastral survey was first undertaken. Every one can now see through the device by which Government while professing to promote peace and harmony has only created disquiet and uncertainty.

DACCA PRAKAS,  
Aug. 28th, 1904.

Government is not satisfied with what it has done for the ultimate ruin of Barisal. Everybody, from the poorest cultivator to the wealthiest millionaire, protested against this measure. And yet the authorities are going to extend this survey over the whole of East Bengal, and thereby to baptise themselves, as it were, in the stream of tears shed by the poverty-stricken masses of the land. Ye men of East Bengal, it no longer behoves you to spend your time in inactivity. Let the people assemble in certain selected localities, and beg mercy of the powers that be, with their eyes streaming with tears. By clearly convincing the authorities of the inexpediency of this injurious measure, and of the unnecessary harassment which it would cause, we might surely awaken them to a sense of their duty in this matter. What other means have we at our command than recourse to arguments and appeals for mercy?

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

54. A correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 24th August complains that the present sign (a cross)

Complaints against the Bengal Nagpur Railway.

employed by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to distinguish the compartments reserved for female passengers is quite inadequate. Illiterate people do not understand it. A female figure should be painted on the door of each such compartment, and the

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Aug. 24th, 1904.



words "Reserved for females" written over it. This alone will properly differentiate these compartments from the rest.

The same correspondent also complains that no bells are rung on the stations between Asansol and Khargpur when a train is due to start.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

55. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 27th August is glad that a parcels office of the Eastern Bengal State Railway has been opened at No. 14, Harrison Road, Calcutta. This will remove a serious inconvenience of the public.

The writer recommends that arrangements should be made for the issue of railway tickets at the above office. It is well known what a difficult task it is to purchase tickets at the Sealdah station. The authorities of the East Indian Railway and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway are issuing tickets at their parcels offices in the city and no inconvenience has resulted from the arrangement. It is to be hoped that the Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities will give to this matter the attention which it deserves.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 28th, 1904.

56. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th August complains of the inconvenience of the present arrangements for running the Loop passenger train on the East Indian Railway. This train, under present arrangements, leaves Howrah at 6-30 P.M., and travels without touching at any of the intermediate stations up to Serampore. For stations below Serampore there are only two evening trains, one leaving Howrah at 6-11 and another at 7-30. Now, as many offices in Calcutta close at 5-30 or 6 P.M., the employes in these offices cannot always avail themselves of the earlier of these two trains, so there is always a large crowd left behind, who travel by the 7-30 train. The result is that there is terrible overcrowding on this train, as many as seventeen or eighteen passengers sometimes travelling in one third-class compartment. All this congestion of traffic might be avoided if the loop passenger train were simply to touch at all the intermediate stations between Howrah and Serampore, or arrangements might be made to run a third train touching at all stations up to Sheoraphuli, timed to leave Howrah at about the same time as the loop passenger, say, at 6-30 P.M.

57. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 28th August asks the Railway Conference, to be held at Simla on the 12th September next, to pay special attention to the question of a reduction in the third-class fare and

Revision of the Railway rules  
in India.

the removal of various inconveniences of third-class passengers. Another question requiring their attention is that railway employes do not behave themselves properly towards passengers, and that outrages on females are becoming a notorious fact. The Conference should devise means to check these.

HITAVARTA.

58. The same paper observes that recently at 5 o'clock in the morning one day a tram-car proceeding at full speed was derailed while crossing a road. It struck against a house, the

A tramway accident.

inmates of which were sleeping at that time. The terrible shock roused them. No harm was done, as no one was sleeping outside the house. The Tramways Company should punish careless drivers severely and specially see that the cars are not driven at such speed in the town.

(h).—General.

AL PUNCH,  
Aug. 13th 1904.

59. *Al Punch* [Bankipore] of the 13th August says that the news of the abolition of the Provincial Civil Service Examination has moved the Eurasians, the Bengalis, and the Beharis differently. The Eurasians are very

Abolition of Provincial Civil  
Service Examination,

glad, because they, whose whole stock of knowledge consists of speaking the English language fluently, shall be able to secure Deputy Collectorships without any examination. The Bengalis are holding mass meetings to adopt memorials against the abolition. But the Beharis remain unmoved, because they hardly shared in those appointments before, and now it will be very difficult for them to approach big officials and seek their favour, almost all Government employments having been monopolized by the Bengali Babus.



60. Referring to the Government notification abolishing competitive examinations, the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 27th August observes:—

The abolition of competitive examinations.

We can never approve of this substitution of Government nomination for open competition. Every intelligent man can see that by this substitution, Government is making admission into the public service more difficult for the natives and easier for the Europeans. Moreover, it is needless to point out that under the new system, instead of deserving men, undeserving men would be found appointed in most cases, owing to the influence of bribery, favour, and affection for one's own dependants and relatives. We know of a case where a Bengali Deputy Magistrate filled the settlement office of a particular district with his own relatives. There was an amateur theatre party in that place under the Deputy Babu's patronage. The performers, who were too ignorant even to sign their own names, were provided by their patron with berths in the same settlement office. It is needless to say that this story will be repeated in all districts under the new system.

RATNAKAR,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

The plague quarantine camp at Rangoon.

61. A correspondent of the *Charumihir* [Mymensingh] of the 23rd August complains of the arrangements made at Rangoon for the segregation of passengers travelling from plague-infected parts of India. In the first place, during medical examination, the poorer class of passengers are maltreated by the police constables, who use their batons and address insulting and abusive words towards the passengers on the least provocation. Then as to the arrangements inside the quarantine camp, the rations supplied are inadequate and fall below the quantity fixed in the printed rules for the purpose. The quality also leaves much to be desired. The accommodation provided is not satisfactory. The supply of drinking-water is obtained from tanks that are exceedingly dirty. In fact, with surroundings like these, the detained passengers remain constantly in fear of being attacked with the plague; and this of itself may be sufficient to actually bring on the disease.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 23rd, 1904.

A complaint against a Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore.

62. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 24th August refers to a petition made by the widow of Babu Durganarain Bose, a late teacher in the Midnapore College, to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor against Babu Ram Sadan Bhattacharya, a Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore, and hopes that the inquiry which the District Magistrate is at present conducting under Government orders into the conduct of the above Deputy Magistrate will reveal all the abuses of authority of which he is said to be guilty.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Aug. 24th, 1904.

Withdrawal of the rules for the prevention of ill-treatment of Indians by British Soldiers.

63. Referring to the withdrawal by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the stringent rules for preventing ill-treatment of Indians by British soldiers and the hope expressed by him that the soldiers will behave well towards Indians in future, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th August observes:—

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 26th, 1904.

We would have had nothing to say in this connection if there had been any reasonable prospect of His Excellency's hope being realised. But the bitter experience we have of the behaviour of the British soldier in India leads us to the conclusion that the moment the rules are withdrawn, he will re-appear in his former character. Former Viceroy and Commanders-in-Chief found it impossible to restrain the soldiers. The stringent orders passed by Lords Curzon and Kitchener produced some good results in this matter. The improvement noticed in the conduct of the soldiers is not the result of good training or good character, but is simply the outcome of the fear of punishment. We hope His Excellency will yet reconsider the matter.

64. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 28th August, in commenting on the withdrawal of the Army Order issued by Lord Kitchener last year, says one is unable to understand where would have been the harm, had the order been allowed to stand. Of course the order had the effect of reducing the number of cases in which the spleens of black men were ruptured by the kicks of the white soldiers. What hopes can be entertained of the soldiers not falling into their old habits, when the fear caused by the strict order is removed?

Withdrawal of Lord Kitchener's Army Circular.

HITAVARTA,  
Aug. 28th, 1904.



HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 29th, 1904.

65. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th August remarks with regard to the order passed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief cancelling his Circular Order of last year issued to European soldiers:—

This will afford an opportunity to make a correct estimate of a European soldier's disposition. It will now be seen how far the European soldier's temper has been softened by Lord Kitchener's orders, because wicked boys pretend to be straight before the teacher's rod.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
26th August 1904.

66. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 26th August complains of the postal arrangements at Hasnabad, subdivision Basirhat, district

24-Parganas. There is a branch post office at the place which employs only two peons to deliver its letters, parcels, etc. Each peon has therefore to serve fifteen or sixteen villages. Great delay and confusion arise from this. Take the case of Bhawanipur village. The rule is that this village should be visited by the peon once every week (on each Saturday), but as a matter of fact sometimes three or four weeks pass by without a visit. This irregular delivery causes great inconvenience to the local public, who number among them some agents of zamindars.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

67. It cannot be denied, writes the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 27th August, that the country is going to be ruined by litigation. The only remedy seems to be the

establishment of arbitration courts. But will Government favour the proposal? Lord Elgin, the late Viceroy of India, was decidedly in favour of settlement of suits by arbitration. He said in 1898 in reply to the address of the Zamindari Panchayet: "I should exhaust every expedient before I allowed an opponent to drag me into the law courts." Lord Curzon is also in favour of settlement of disputes by arbitration. It does not therefore appear that Government can have any objection to the establishment of arbitration courts. The writer exhorts Government to establish arbitration courts in Bengal, which will save many persons from ruin and will be regarded as an invaluable boon by the people of these provinces, for which they will offer their hearty thanks to the authorities.

ARYAVARTA,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

68. A correspondent of the *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 27th August complains against the *Hitavarta* for not publishing his letter contradicting its correspondent's statement that a criminal prosecution was instituted against the Joint-Magistrate of Ranchi by a man. He says that if the above statement of the correspondent of the *Hitavarta* is correct, he ought to publish through that paper the name of the complainant and the number of the case.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

69. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th August has the following:— Lord Ampthill has been true to his words. His Lordship has spent his officiating period of the Governor-Generalship in dances and amusements. Almost all the Lieutenant-Governors and officials have been entertained by him. If Lord Ampthill has done nothing else, he has displeased nobody. One thing he has certainly done, *i.e.*, he has endeared himself to all.

HITAVARTA,  
Aug. 28th, 1904.

70. In a long article under the heading "Why this deterioration?" the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 28th August says:— English rule in India. There is a proverb in this country to the effect that 'the monkey-dancer can make his monkey dance; if another tries it, the monkey bites him.' This is a principle which underlies everything in this world from common shopkeeping to administering an empire. The great hero Napoleon used to call Englishmen 'a nation of shopkeepers.' Although many people say that Napoleon said this through spite, we are now coming to regard that which the French hero said as quite true.

If a zamindari passes into the hands of a bunia, he pumps his tenants of their wealth by fraud or force or other devices. Tanks and water-courses are dried up by the zamindar's carelessness, the cultivators have no heart in their work, artisans give up their profession for want of encouragement, and the country loses its peace on account of the oppression and injustice of the zamindar's employés. The zamindar looks upon his property from the trader's point of



view and is always thinking of means by which to improve the sale of his commodities.

The Musalmans no doubt plundered the country when they first invaded it, but they were not altogether devoid of qualities which become a king.

In course of time the Musalmans possessing kingly virtues, gave up plunder and inaugurated works of public utility, such as the construction of royal roads, founding of dispensaries, etc. The Hindus therefore gradually ceased to bear any hatred against them, and Hindus and Musalmans regarded themselves as one people. Their religious differences were also gradually made up, and Rahim and Ram came to be regarded as one and the same. Just as this blending was going on, there appeared on the scene the white merchants, and the country passed into their hands.

The Englishmen first came into this country as bunias, but they could not divest themselves of their bunia propensities on becoming its rulers.

They adopted all sorts of means, unjust and unfair, to further their trade policy, and did not even once turn their eyes to the improvement of agriculture.

The result has been what could be expected. Art and industry have disappeared; trade and commerce have been ruined; the people have lost both in body and mind; plague and famine have taken a permanent hold of the country, and people have become aimless and forgotten the object of education. The present system of education has only cleared the way to slavery. The Bharat land of plenty (gems) has become a *smashan bhumi* (crematorium).

Times are always changing, and should it so happen that the English leave this country, may be a hundred or a thousand years hence, what will be left to the Indian to show to the civilised nations of the world?—"this is the gem that I have received in the time of the English rule."

### III.—LEGISLATION.

71. Adverting to the proposed amendment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, providing for the formation of Educational Committees to work in connection with the District Boards, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 23rd August observes:—

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 23rd, 1904.

This proposal, if carried out, will have the effect of seriously encroaching on the powers of the District Boards.

We cannot yet say if Sir Andrew Fraser's experiences gained in the Central Provinces will stand him in good stead in the political circumstances of Bengal. It was the Central Provinces which supplied His Honour with the idea of meeting a portion of the cost of water-supply in the mufassal from the contributions of the local public, and also inspired his circular on this question. The question of establishing a Provincial Agricultural Association for Bengal has recently engaged his attention. Here, again, it was the Advisory Agricultural Association of the Central Provinces which convinced him of the utility of such an organisation. We do not know if the Bengal public will appreciate his project to form, in connection with District Boards, Educational Committees such as exist in the backward tracts of the Central Provinces.

For ourselves we should be sorry at anything which would diminish the powers of the District Boards. In the proposed Educational Committees, the members of the Boards will be always in a minority, as compared with members otherwise appointed. And an important point worth considering is as to how far the District Boards will be able to choose independent and impartial men as members of these Committees.

72. Referring to the proposed amendment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 23rd August observes:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 23rd, 1904.

This draft Bill contains, among other things, a proposal suggestive of a serious change. It is proposed to arm the District Boards with power to levy new taxes. As to the utility of constructing tramways or light railways, different people hold different views. Some persons think they should be constructed, others think they should not. But, at any rate, the proposal to get them constructed by the



District Boards does not at all commend itself to us. To burden the masses with taxes, and to construct railways out of the proceeds of these taxes, can never be regarded as beneficial to the country. How can a whole district be said to benefit by a railway which will run over only a part of it? And yet, though the benefits of the line will be confined to particular localities, the people all over the district will have to bear the burden of the new tax. We regret that Government has not yet been able to get a correct knowledge of our pecuniary condition. We use umbrellas and shirts and shoes, and from these signs the officials conclude that we are in easy circumstances. But the fact is not really so. Nobody can conceive our misery, except ourselves, the sufferers.

If the people were really well off, and fit to bear the burden of additional taxation, we would raise no objection whatever to a new tax being imposed. But the majority in this country live from hand to mouth and can make no provision for to-morrow. It is perfectly clear that to people so circumstanced the imposition of a new tax means a terrible act of oppression.

The people already pay a land-tax, a road-cess, a public works-cess, a dak-cess, a chaukidari-tax, and an income-tax. Nor is this all. If they suffer any wrong, and seek the help of the Courts to right it, they have to pay a stamp duty. Does Government know how little is left to those poor people after making all these payments? If Government did, then surely it would not have made these frequent proposals for putting on new taxes.

Government has no interest of its own to serve by the construction of tramways and light railways. It is for the people's convenience of communication that such lines are proposed to be built. Government is in this matter actuated by a good motive, and we therefore offer to it our heartiest thanks. But at the same time, we beg leave to represent humbly that we cannot afford any luxury in our present condition. It ill-becomes the man who has to go about with a hungry stomach to enjoy the luxury of railway travelling. The people of this country have not the means to build tramways and light-railways at their own cost. They have from time immemorial travelled on foot, and they prefer to continue the practice. They are quite unfit to bear burdens. If fresh burdens are imposed in the shape of taxes, it will mean death to them.

The road-cess was imposed for the purpose of building roads in the villages. How much of the road-cess funds is now spent on this object, Government knows very well. A tramway-cess, if it is levied, will be payable by everybody in each district. But how many lines can be constructed in each district out of the proceeds of this tax?

We do not say that Government has no right to impose a new cess or tax, because that would be a violation of the Permanent Settlement. Those who maintain such a proposition deserve to be called madmen. For there can never be such a thing as a contract made by a ruler with his subjects. The ruler is almighty; he is the all-in-all; he is as a god on earth, not bound to account for his actions to anybody. One year there is a bumper harvest, the next year there is a total failure of the crops. One part of the world boasts of the wealth, power and intelligence of its inhabitants. In another part of the same world, we see the weak ground under the heels of the strong. Does God explain to us why these differences should be?

The case is similar with Government's promise about the Permanent Settlement. When that promise was made, it was made voluntarily and in good faith. Now, however, Government has become convinced of the need of new taxes, and consequently wishes to impose them. Whether this wish is justifiable or unjustifiable it is not for us to say. We shall content ourselves with saying this much, that we are poor and helpless. The pressure of taxation has made us poor to the last degree. Let no new taxes be put on us. We are utterly unfit to bear the burden of fresh taxes.

But if Government strongly feels the need of constructing tramways or light railways in the mufassal, there are other means of raising the funds open to it than the one we have been taking exception to. Take the case of the Amta Tramway. This was constructed by a private Company, and the Company are working it at a profit. Similarly, the Tarkessur Railway was not constructed with the people's money. Government might select the routes, and call for tenders for the construction and working of the lines. If there is any



hope of profit, there will be many private Companies ready to come forward to take up the work. And a line which is not taken up by private capitalists on the ground that it is not likely to be a paying one, ought not to be taken up by the District Boards either. It is for all these reasons that we appeal to Government to pause. This proposal is meant for our welfare, but it will end in doing us only unmixed evil.

73. The *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 26th August draws attention to the inconvenience which estates under the Court of Wards must suffer owing to the absence of an important provision in the Court of Wards Act. EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
Aug. 26th, 1904.

An amendment suggested in the Court of Wards Act.

To pay off old debts bearing a high rate of interest the Court of Wards borrows money at a lower rate. People have no objection to advance the money at a low rate of interest, as the security obtained is considered to be sufficiently strong under the Court of Wards. Under the existing Act, when a minor under the guardianship of the Court attains majority or when he dies, the estate ceases to be under the Court. Owing to this, people have now begun to discover the fact that to advance loans to the Court of Wards managing a minor's estate is not altogether safe. The difficulty of obtaining loans at a small rate of interest will gradually become greater, and must therefore cause serious inconvenience to the managers of Court of Wards' estates. It should therefore be provided in the Act that as long as the debts of a minor are not cleared, or until the Civil Court decides that he is not liable to pay the debts, his estate shall not be entitled to be taken out of the Court's management unless some such provision is made. It would be impossible to obtain loans at a small rate of interest, and the utility and the prestige of the Court of Wards would be greatly diminished.

Re-election of Rai Sri Ram Bahadur to be a member of Council.

74. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 27th August is glad to hear that Rai Sri Ram Bahadur has been re-elected a member of the Supreme Legislative Council.

ARYAVARTA,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

75. Referring to the conviction of the Khasia Chief, Simburai, for murder, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th August writes:—

The case of the Khasia Chief Simburai.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 26th, 1904.

The insult which Lord Curzon offered to Native Princes at the Delhi Durbar by treating them as ordinary zamindars gave them mortal offence. It should be remembered that when Native Princes commit any crime in their own territories, the British Government cannot, under the terms of its treaty with them, try them as ordinary criminals. But in the case of the Maharaja of Panna, the government of Lord Curzon disregarded this rule.

Recently there has occurred another instance of a similar breach of the above rule. The Khasia Chief, Sirdar Simburai, with some of his followers, was accused of murder. He was at once arrested like an ordinary criminal and brought to Shillong. No jury or assessors were appointed for his trial, but a single Commissioner sat in judgment over him and sentenced him to death. On appeal to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, the sentence of death was commuted to one of transportation for life. The Maharaja of Panna was made a State prisoner, but the Khasia Chief must go to the Andamans! Who knows that the treatment which the Khasia Chief has received at the hands of Government will not one day be accorded to any of the Native Princes?

Government can no doubt do whatever it likes with the helpless Native Princes. But if the terms of treaties solemnly made be thus deliberately set aside, the name of the British Government will be brought into disgrace. It is stated that the unhappy Khasia Sirdar has preferred an appeal to the Government of India. We earnestly hope that His Excellency the Viceroy will do justice in the matter and thereby remove a grave anxiety from the



DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 26th, 1904.

minds of the Native Princes. It is not at all proper that such an unprecedented and extremely severe punishment should be meted out to the Khasia Sirdar.

76. The same paper has the following:—

A company for working mines  
in Kashmir.

Kashmir is rich in gold, silver and copper mines. Some Europeans have formed a company to work them, and Mr. C. M. P. Right is appointed their Engineer who has come to Calcutta. Kashmir is supposed to be a heaven from the earliest days. Akbar named it "Kashmir, the type of paradise." Now that valuable mines have been found there, how can it be safe!

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

PRATIKAR,  
Aug. 26th, 1904.

77. A correspondent of the *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 26th August

Distress at Arjunpur and surrounding villages in the Murshidabad district.

reports that Arjunpur and some thirty or forty other villages near it in the Murshidabad district have been completely submerged. The crops have been destroyed and the cultivators rendered destitute. Many of them are already compelled to go without their evening meals. No work is available. The heavy rainfall has made the housing of cattle difficult. The water is still on the increase, and the walls of the houses are gradually giving way. To make matters worse a gang of thieves have begun their depredations; the police sit with eyes shut and bestir themselves only at the time of collecting the chaukidari-tax. There have been some visitations of cholera, while fever is always prevalent. There is fear of a famine in a severe form occurring here.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

78. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 27th August reports that the

The drainage question in Amta thana.

crops in certain fields named Mirer Chak, Mansar Chak and Shola Chak in thana Amta have been destroyed owing to the excessive rainfall of the season. The only drainage channel for these fields is the Joy Kissen Mukerjee's canal, but this has gradually silted up. In addition, the fishermen (who have taken lease of the fishing rights from the local zamindars) have begun to dam up all the outlets of water in these parts, so as to be able to catch fish the better. The effect has been that the water on the fields is still rising, and threatening the safety of the very hearths and homes of the villagers.

HITAVARTA,  
Aug. 28th, 1904.

Excessive rain at Pipardih (Bihar).

79. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 28th August is informed that excessive rain has done much damage to the place.

HITAVARTA.

80. The same paper has the following:—

Floods in Patna.

Patna is under water owing to the flood in the Ganges, the Sone and the Poonpoo. The sight of the *deara* land opposite the Judge's Court is simply heart-rending. It is fortunate that the inhabitants of the village Shukuntala had left the place before the flood. The District Judge has been kind enough to give them shelter in the compound of his court. Several houses of the Kangrabag have collapsed. The people and the zamindars of Shukuntala and Aimartala villages have applied to the Collector for help.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 29th, 1904.

81. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th August is informed that

Prospect of crops.

rain is sufficient in Yashpur (Chota Nagpur). The outlook of paddy is favourable, but there is very little hope of the *bhadoi* crops.

The same paper is also informed that it has been raining at Sarai Domki (Muzaffarpur) for a whole month. Indian corn and paddy have suffered. Many houses have collapsed. The cattle are also suffering.

The same paper learns that prices are easy in Sahebganj, Bhagulpur. The sky is always overcast. There is little hope of the *bhadoi* crops. The Ganges is full.

The same paper says that rain is badly wanted in Gujrat. Standing crops are withering for want of rain.



82. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th August says that some 17 or 18 villages under the jurisdiction of Amta thana, in the Uluberia subdivision of the Howrah district, have been for the last few years annually submerged during the rains. The drainage channel of these villages is a canal which runs from Islampur to Uluberia. This channel has, however, silted up, and does not easily admit of the outflow of water. The zamindars were appealed to, for redress, but have done nothing. The majority of the inhabitants, owing to the loss of their crops and their homes, have been compelled to leave their ancestral villages. The canal requires to be re-excavated, and a sluice gate should be constructed at some suitable point. About Rs. 20,000 would be required for these works of improvement.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 29th, 1904.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

83. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 13th August has the following:—

Lord Curzon makes long promises, but does nothing of utility. In one of his speeches in England, His Lordship expressed deep sympathy for the Indians and promised to do them good, but India deserves active sympathy because she is getting poor and there is no country in the world poorer than India. In spite of this, however, the revenue demand of the Government is much more than that of any other country. It is only India which is squeezed of thirty crores of rupees by the foreigners and for which it gets nothing in return. It is only India where the natives of the soil are deprived of posts of responsibility and trust, and the foreigners who lord it over here leave the country for ever after having filled their pockets. There is no country more miserable than India, where a competent knowledge of a foreign language is a necessary qualification for those holding posts under Government. There is no country in the world except India where the people have been disarmed. The effect of all these is that India is a poor and famine-stricken country and a home of various diseases.

AL PUNCH,  
Aug. 13th, 1904.

84. In a communication to the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 24th August, the writer says:—

Mr. Beatson-Bell in Barisal.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
PATRIKA,  
Aug. 24th, 1904.

Mr. Beatson-Bell, late District Magistrate, and at present Settlement Officer of Barisal, pleased the people by showing them favour in small matters, but has ruined them in vital points. He had gained notoriety in Khulna by flogging a zamindar's naib, but coming to Barisal he earned unprecedented popularity in a way which is a mystery to many. It must be said that he is an exceptionally clever man. His eagle eye detected the weak point in our national character, which consists in this, that we are overwhelmed with feelings of gratitude when small favours are done to us. The dismissed old officer, the helpless student, the unemployed Bengali youth, the raiyat oppressed by the zamindar, the subordinate *amla*, all found in him a kind friend and patron. It was he who carried the dead body of a plague patient to the burning ghat on his own shoulders, who, during the ravages of plague in the Barisal district, gave medicines to the sufferers and consolation to the afflicted and distributed sweets to the orphans. He was really a good man and was looked upon by the people as their *ma bap*.

Such was Mr. Beatson-Bell. Instances like the above could be multiplied. So completely were the people enthralled that they lost the power of protesting against the lawlessness of Mr. Beatson-Bell, some instances of which are given below:—

Raja Satyendra Nath Ghosal Bahadur was grossly insulted by him at the Jhalokati cutcherry, the Raja's only offence being that he was not on good terms with Mr. Harris, his officer at that place. Jaladhar Ganguli, a clerk, was struck with the fist for a trivial offence. Mr. Beatson-Bell has constructed a play-ground at a cost of many thousands of rupees raised by subscriptions. Can it be supposed that the money was voluntarily subscribed? Who has destroyed local self-government in Barisal by depriving the District Board and the Municipality of independent members? We unhesitatingly reply



that it was he. He acted most unfairly towards the creditors in the repayment of the debts of the Lucas family of Barisal whose estates are under the Court of Wards. He introduced the winter races in Barisal and numberless persons have been ruined by this system of gambling, while Mr. Beatson-Bell remarked smilingly, pointing to these men,—“Here are the poverty-stricken people of India.” A true friend of the people, no doubt!

JASOHAR,  
Aug. 24th, 1904.

85. A correspondent of the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 24th August writes as follows under the heading “The yellow peril, or the white peril, which?”:—

“The Yellow Peril, or the White Peril, which?”  
Reader, cast your eyes on the wide world stretched before you. You will see what influence and power the white races exercise on every part of it. Cannot the sight justify the non-white races in raising a cry of the “white peril”?

The people of India live in constant peril of bursting their spleens; consequently they have no time to think of this white peril. But whatever the land which the whites have chosen to favour by founding colonies in it, the natives have always gone the way to extinction. Of course, this must be called spreading the glorious civilisation of Europe. In this spread of civilisation, the races other than the white-skinned ones have nothing to regret. For thereby they are sure to secure salvation from the ills of flesh and attain *nirvana*.

We are told that the religion of the noble-hearted Christ holds sway in Europe. There is great difficulty now in explaining what rules of the Christian religion justify these barbarous practices. But we can suggest an easy way out of the difficulty. The rumour that Jesus travelled in Tibet is perfectly correct. We have also learned by some occult power that in the Dalai Lama's library there is a copy of the Bible written with Jesus' own hand. There are some slight points of difference between this Bible and that ordinarily in use. For instance, there is an eleventh commandment added to the ten already known, as follows:—

“With all your hearts and by all the means at your command, wish for the destruction of all races other than the white one. For know it as a truth that they are born of Satan's progeny.”

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 25th, 1904.

86. Referring to a hand-to-hand fight in which a Bengali medical assistant in the Kumbhir Tea Garden in the Kachar district is said to have returned blow for blow to Mr. Kingsley, the Assistant Manager, and to have severely belaboured him, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 25th August says that this incident is only the beginning of the inevitable outcome of the time. The Indian has now learned to return blow for blow. If the Indians can defend themselves from the attacks of Europeans, the oppressions of the latter upon the former will die a natural death. It is only the timid and the weak that are kicked by the strong.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

87. The same paper, noticing the assault by Mr. Kingsley, an Assistant Manager of a tea garden in Assam, on a native doctor, observes:—

An Assam tea-planter assaulting a native doctor.  
Well, the blacks have made a beginning in striking the whites, and in giving up the habit of pocketing injuries (beatings) received.

88. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th August has the following:—

BHARAT MITRA.

Hindu and Muhammadan unity.  
The Punjab Urdu papers are writing various articles on the unity of the Hindus and Mahammadans. Maulvi Abdul Halim Sharar of Lucknow has published an Urdu paper, named *Ittihad* (union), which contains articles on the unity of Hindus and Mahammadans. Even in Bengal, some endeavour of this sort is being made.

BHARAT MITRA.

89. The same paper has the following:—

Coolies in Assam tea-plantations.  
Mr. Hugh Gordon, on the occasion of the late anniversary of the Tea Planters' Association, called the special attention of all tea-garden managers to the fact that the coolies in the gardens should be persuaded to keep in touch with their families at home by writing them letters. If the families of the coolies were to communicate with them, it would remove the unpopularity of service in tea-gardens.



90. The same paper has a caricature, in which India in the form of a woman is represented as offering *puja* (worship) to Lord Curzon in the form of a serpent god on

A cartoon.

BHARAT MITRA.  
Aug. 27th, 1904.

the occasion of the last *Nagpanchmi* day.

91. The same paper has the following:—

Motor-car accident.

Motor-cars are nowadays running on the Calcutta roads in large numbers. On Wednesday last, while three Europeans were driving in a motor-car, an aged Muhammadan woman fell beneath their car near the sadar thana in Russa Road. Though not killed she received severe injuries.

BHARAT MITRA.

92. Under the heading as in the margin, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 28th August reviews the case of the *Ahluwalia Gazette* in a long article and ends by quoting the

Sedition in the Punjab.

HITAVARTA,  
Aug. 28th, 1904.

following passage from the *Bengalee* with approval:—

"The passages quoted above disclose the strong feeling of alarm and opposition which the Universities Act has evoked throughout India, and they convey a lesson which the statesman should not overlook. Rabid writing is mischievous, but bad measures are even more hurtful. The effusions of the journalist are forgotten; bad laws eat into the heart of the community and leave an enduring influence for evil, which is all the more mischievous, because it is so insidious."

93. The same paper criticises the Derby speech of Lord Curzon and closes with the following remarks on its concluding portion, in which His Lordship spoke of his

Lord Curzon at Derby.

HITAVARTA.

ambition to "consolidate the marvellous fabric of British rule in India, etc.":—

Bravo, this blowing of one's own trumpet *literally*, to give one's own name as "Mr. Sweet"). Glory be to this audacity and shamelessness. But then we cannot say if to praise one's own self is in accordance with the civilisation of the West; it is certainly not in accordance with Indian civilisation. . . . A buffoon was praising himself in a certain Court, on which someone remarked: "You are a nice chief to sing your own songs." The former retorted at once: "If I were not to extol myself, what interest (object) have others to do it?"

94. The same paper is glad that Sir H. Cotton is coming as the President of the next Congress at Madras.

Sir H. Cotton expected in India.

HITAVARTA.

95. The same paper exhorts the public to express their heartfelt sympathy for Japan by their contributions to this fund.

Japanese relief fund.

HITAVARTA.

96. Considering the victory of the Liberals at the recent elections, the same paper expects a change of Ministry with the consequent change of the Viceroy of India, which it considers enough gain for the present.

Election of Liberals in Parliament.

HITAVARTA.

97. The same paper thanks His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda for appointing Mr. R. C. Dutt as a member of his Council, and goes on to say that one reason for our being pleased at this appointment is that while

Appointment of Mr. R. C. Dutt by the Gaekwar of Baroda.

HITAVARTA.

we are fighting with the Government of India for securing high posts for our countrymen, many big zamindars and Rajas are appointing white managers and thus sending away their money beyond the seas. Should this money, however, remain in the country and its owners refuse to part with it at a time when the country is overtaken by a widespread famine, the people may yet save their lives by robbing them of that money, which would be simply impossible if the money is carried away to a foreign country.

The same paper observes that Lord Curzon had declared the injustice of employing Europeans in Native States, but it is sorry that during His Lordship's administration many European employes have been thrust in upon the Native States at the instance of the Foreign Office, which often exerts its influence for securing such appointments.

98. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th August has the following:—

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 29th, 1904.

Military expenditure of India.

When the Indian Budget was introduced in the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for India admitted the increase in the military expenditure of India. Lord Curzon in his Guildhall speech has already shown the reasons for this increase. He



said that India had to send her troops freely to South Africa, Mauritius, Aden, Singapore, China, Hong-Kong and Somaliland. This part of Lord Curzon's speech clearly points out the causes of increase of the military expenditure of India.

HINDI BANGAVASI.  
August 29th, 1904.

98. The same paper says that Sir Antony MacDonell, whose administration of the North-Western Provinces of this country will be long remembered by its people, has not been so successful in winning over the Irish people to his side. It says that Mr. Sanderson, M. P., while abusing Sir Antony MacDonell in the House of Commons the other day, was right when he said that to govern the four millions of Irish people was a much more difficult task than to govern the whole of India. There is a great difference between the loyal Indians and the Irish people. The Irish people do not hesitate to shoot at Royal persons, while the Indians regard such persons with the veneration due to the gods.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

99. The same paper is sorry that the flood caused by the breaking of the Gupta bund on the right bank of the Ganges has caused a great loss of life and property in Begu-serai, Khargya and Gogri, in the district of Monghyr. For full three days these places were under deep water. Many people saved their lives by climbing upon trees and clinging to the roofs of houses. Mr. Oldham, Magistrate and Collector of Monghyr, personally inspected some of the places. The local District Superintendent of Police rendered the people much help in their present misery. It is said that the Bengal North-Western Railway line is the cause of this flood.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

100. Hearing that Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co. have bought about 60,000 bighas of land in the Sundarbans for cultivation, the same paper observes that the English people also have now come to think of becoming cultivators.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

101. The same paper is sorry to hear that in the temple of Radha Govindji in Brindaban people enter with their shoes on. It is said even sweepers enter it without opposition. The temple belongs to the Maharaja of Jeypur, but being a place of worship, it is now a public property. The Maharaja and the people of that place ought to take steps to check such a practice. Hunting is forbidden in the adjoining forests of Brindaban, but it is said European soldiers sometimes go for that purpose. If this be a fact, the authorities there ought to prevent it.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Aug. 20th, 1904.

102. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 20th August states that there was in the last week a sufficient rainfall in almost every part of the Cuttack district and that the agricultural operations are in full swing.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Health of the Cuttack town.

103. The same paper reports that the health of the Cuttack town is good.

UTKALDIPIKA.

104. The Kanika correspondent of the same paper states that the agricultural operations in that part of the Cuttack district were much impeded owing to insufficient rainfall.

The same correspondent states that crocodiles have proved a source of trouble to the people of Kanika and refers to the case of a resident of Hatia-para who, while engaged in crossing his bullocks at Kaundi khal in Puru-sottampur, was wounded by a huge crocodile, from whose clutches he barely escaped through the exertions of a few men working in the neighbouring fields.

UTKALDIPIKA.

105. The Rantrapur correspondent of the same paper states that *Beali* paddy has proved a total failure, the fields on which that paddy was sown being now used as pasturage for cattle, and that the prospects of the *Sarada* paddy are hopeful.



106. The same paper is glad to learn that Raja Binayakrisna Deb, son of the late Bijayakrisna Deb, has, in accordance with the terms of his father's will, handed over a monthly donation of Rs. 66-2-8 to the Sobhabazar Charitable Association and that the writer thanks the Raja for the same.

UTKALDIPKA.  
20th Augst 1904.

A donation to the Sobhabazar Charitable Association.

107. The same paper is glad to learn that the Manager of the Puri temple has resolved to introduce electric light into the premises of the Puri temple and has secured therefor the support of the Pandits of the Mukti-mandap, without whose cordial co-operation no such reforms can be introduced. Electric light has become necessary to light up dark places in the temple, where wicked people find an opportunity to commit crimes with impunity.

UTKALDIPKA.

Electric light in the Puri temple.

108. The same paper thanks Government for its donation of Rs. 6,000 to Kaviraj Abinash Chandra Kabiratna for his able and correct translation into English of *Charak Sanhita*, a work on Ayurvedic medicine in Sanskrit, and is of opinion that this benevolent act was due to the generosity and acumen of Lord Curzon, whose love for the ancient literature and architecture of India is great. The writer hopes that this translation will make Hindu medicine popular among Europeans and overcome their strong antipathy against it.

UTKALDIPKA.

Government's donation to a Kaviraj.

109. Referring to the passing of the Indian Budget through the British Parliament, the same paper observes that it was a matter of great regret that the extravagant military expenditure proposed in the Budget was not cut down by the Hon'ble Members.

UTKALDIPKA.

The Indian Budget in Parliament.

110. The same paper thanks the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India in Council for permitting all Government officers drawing salaries less than Rs. 100 per month to take three months' privilege leave when due without any repugnant restriction. The *Uriya and Navasamad* [Balasore] of the 17th August holds a similar opinion.

UTKALDIPKA.

The new rule regarding the grant of privilege leave.

111. Referring to the trade in cotton piece-goods in India, the same paper points out that though the Government of India admits that some of the cotton mills in India are not in a prosperous condition, it is unwilling to remit the duty of 20 lakhs which it unjustly exacts from the Indian mills in the presence of a surplus of four or five crores of rupees in the budget. It is thus clear that the Government does not really encourage local manufactures in India.

UTKALDIPKA.

The cotton duty.

112. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 17th August states that after the heavy showers of rain in the last week, the rivers of the Balasore district were swollen, and it is feared that great damage has been done to crops in the low-lying parts of that district.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Aug. 17th, 1904.

Heavy rain in the Balasore district.

113. According to the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 18th August there was ample rain in the Balasore district in the last week and agricultural operations are progressing satisfactorily.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Aug. 18th, 1904.

Agricultural operations in Balasore.

114. Referring to the Government notification intimating that no competitive examination will be held next year for recruiting candidates for the Executive Branch of the Provincial Civil Service and the Subordinate Civil Service, the same paper observes that it is difficult to form an opinion of the measure without going through the rules that are promised to be made known within a short time. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 17th August views the measure with suspicion, and though itself fond of the system of nomination, advises those who are for competition to discuss the measure in all its bearings.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

Abolition of the competitive system.

115. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 20th August is sorry to state that frequent floods in the Brahmini river have done great injury to people living on both its banks. Agriculturists had their paddy seeds and seedlings twice washed away. They have neither capital nor energy enough to recoup their losses.

GARJATBASINI,  
Aug. 20th, 1904.

Floods in the Brahmani river.



## ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAK,  
Aug. 22nd, 1904.

116. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 22nd August publishes the following in English:—

Reconstitution of Local Boards  
in Assam.

In compliance with the letter of the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet in the month of July last, asking an expression of our views in regard to the constitution of Local Boards in Assam, we have the honour to state our views as follows:—

Chaukidari panchayats as at present constituted in the Surma Valley are composed mostly of persons having little education. They should not, in our opinion, be entrusted with the power of election for the post of members allotted to rural areas. It is necessary in the first place to entrust the duty of reconstituting the panchayats in each subdivision to an Extra Assistant Commissioner or a Sub-Deputy Collector, who should be entrusted to thoroughly remodel the panchayats by removing therefrom all persons who have not some education and local influence. When they have been so reconstituted, the panchayats may be trusted with the proposed power.

The majority of Indian members of Local Boards in Assam as at present composed are men who are not sufficiently educated to be able to understand clearly their duties and responsibilities. The time has, in our opinion, now come when certain educational tests for membership may safely be prescribed at least in the case of the district of Sylhet. It may, we should think, be laid down that no one who has not, besides possessing considerable local influence, at least passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, shall ordinarily be eligible for a membership. It should be further provided that members for the posts allotted to rural areas should, as a rule, be elected from amongst the land holding class and that no land holders owning singly or jointly landed property for which less than Rs. 50 is paid as local rates should be eligible for membership.

The term "mercantile community" appears to us to be a little vague. Besides persons carrying on regular business at certain well-known commercial centres, such as Ballaganj, Ajmiriganj, Srimangal, Kajaldara, Chhatack and other places, there are numerous petty shop-keepers and grocers who have no definite place of business in any recognised centres. It is therefore desirable, in our opinion, to define the term as exactly as possible, so as to make the scheme workable.

We would rather have two posts allotted to the head-quarters station, but restrict them to permanent residents having an abiding and real interest in the welfare of the subdivision.

PARIDARSAK.

117. The same paper continues its criticisms on the Overseer of Karimganj [See Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 6th August, paragraph 84]:—

Complaints against the Overseer of Karimganj.

- (1) The framing of estimates for repairs or other works in connection with a road or a building requires a previous personal inspection of the road or building in question. Recently the Overseer had to frame some estimates in connection with the Dulabhchhara bungalow. He started to visit it, but returned after going as far as Batabari.
- (2) He went out to inspect the road from Patharkandi to Hatikhira. But all he did was to travel from one place to the other by boat and to return after visiting the Manager of the tea garden at the latter place.
- (3) He accepts presents of fruits from the contractors.
- (4) He is not at all a good rider, probably because of the unwieldy size of his body.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 3rd September, 1904.

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